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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of : Glenn Ricart et al
Title of Invention : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMPUTER PERSONALIZATION
U.S. Serial No. : 09/769,605 RECEIVED
Group Art Unit : 2173 JUN 01 2004
Filed : January 25, 2001 Technology Center 2100
Examiner : HANNE, SARA M
Attorney docket : 300/4

Mail Stop Non-fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1 -16 as either being anticipated by, or being obvious over, East et al (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0061323A1) under 35USC §102(e) and 35USC §103(a).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as explained in detail below. In particular, Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion of the Examiner that East teaches or implies that the personalization information is sent to the server in a network to personalize both the server and the workstations of the network. The present invention discloses a method and system to personalize the server and workstations of a network so that the server and/or workstations will be tailored to a particular user and/or particular subscriber, as explained in detail in the Background of

the Specification. In particular, as taught by the present invention, both the personalization information for personalizing the server and the personalization information for personalizing the workstations are sent to the server, as defined in dependent claims 1, 7 and 12. Thus, the network needs a live connection only once to get the personalization information, and repetitive information that applies to multiple workstations is sent only once (see page 13, lines 8-18).

East discloses a method and system to perform updates to thin client configurations. More specifically, East discloses a tiered architecture in which the update information is conveyed from a top-level master administrative server to one or more lower-level remote administrative servers, which in turn convey the update information to their managed thin clients. East, however, does not discuss or mention how to personalize servers and the thin clients (read as “workstations”). In particular, East does teach or imply to send the server both the personalization information for personalizing the server and the personalization information for personalizing the thin clients (workstations). In East, what is conveyed is update information for updating the thin clients to perform a software update (see, e.g., paragraph 0007), but not the personalization information for personalizing the thin clients so that the thin clients can be tailored to a particular user and/or particular subscriber.

In short, Applicants are not claiming to be the first to distribute software updates, as this is admittedly old. However the bulk updates distributed by the system of East are not information that the user himself input into the client in using the software. As set forth at pages 1-2 of the specification, the personalization information referred to by applicants is the sort of information that a user of a computer typically enters when a new computer is installed.

Moreover, independent claim 12 further defines that the personalization information is collected from an existing server and an existing client, and is used to personalize a new server and

a new client that replace the existing ones by sending the personalization information to the new server, and relying on that new server to personalize the newly installed client. Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion of the Examiner that these distinguishing features are anticipated by East. In particular, East discloses to copy a configuration of a thin client for configuring other co-existing thin clients or for configuring a newly added thin client. East, however, does not teach that the configuration copied from an existing thin client is used for configuring a new thin client that replaces the existing thin client from which the configuration was copied. Therefore, the patentability of independent claim 12 is further strengthened because of these distinguishing features.

In short, the present invention is directed to avoiding a user having to replace all the personalization information resulting in his or her own user look and feel when a new system is installed. East, although managing a network of thin clients, does not provide any mechanism for storing the actual detailed configuration implemented by the particular users and for avoiding the updates required when a system is upgraded and/or replaced.

Thus, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the foregoing remarks. The Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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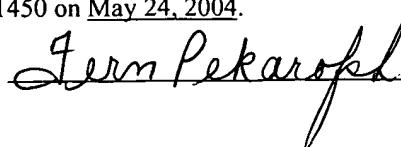
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May 24, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 24, 2004.

Dated May 24, 2004 Signed



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